

Volume 39 Number 3 Winter 2008

## PREPARATION FOR THE 71<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL SSS MEETING IN RICHMOND

Larry Isaac  
President

New Year greetings to all!

The Southern Sociological Society's Program and Local Arrangements Committees are currently working to build on the success of last year's meetings. The 2008 Annual Meeting will be held April 9-12 at the Richmond Marriott Hotel. You definitely do not want to miss these meetings, so please mark your calendars now. Also, be sure to renew your membership if you have not done so already.

"Movement Matters: Vision, Mobilization, Memory" is the theme for the 2008 meetings. The main couplet—"Movement Matters"—can be read in at least two ways. On the one hand, it can suggest the particular matters to which activists and scholars must attend in their making and understanding of how social movements work. Vision of an alternative world to-be-

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### From the Editor:

This issue of *TSS* updates information about the 2008 annual meeting and Richmond. The preliminary program will be posted online when it is available. The next edition of *TSS* will be published in March with final details about the annual meeting. Please send your comments and information for future editions to Bob Freymeyer (mailto:[rhfreym@presby.edu](mailto:rhfreym@presby.edu)).

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made, mobilization of the social forces to do the re-making work, and collective memory of what was or was not done are all part of such a reading. This interpretation of movement matters should also push us to think about the fundamentals of what social movement means and how movements, in fact, move. What are the central sources of movement dynamism?

On the other hand, movement matters can signal that social movements do, in fact, matter. In this sense, we are making a claim that social movements are important, or efficacious in some way. For instance, it may refer to the observation that movements matter for understanding key aspects of social worlds that have been built in the past; that social movements matter for understanding how institutions, culture, and generations change; or that social movements matter as conditioning context for other important social processes. I want to encourage all of these interpretations of “movement matters” (and others) as the thematic context for the Richmond meetings.

I want to recognize again the key players working diligently behind the scenes to make the Richmond meetings both intellectually rewarding and enjoyable for all. The key committees are:

**Program Committee:** Co-Chairs—Peggy Hargis and Woody Beck; Members: Harry Dahms; William Danaher; Douglas Eckberg; Michelle Emerson; Cherise Harris; Dan Harrison; Patricia Martin; Holly McCammon; Angela Mertig; Oscar Miller; Patrick Nolan; Richard Pitt; John Reynolds; Susan Webb.

The submission window is now closed and Peggy Hargis and Woody Beck are working to organize our submissions. Many thanks to Peggy and Woody for this crucial service to the Society. We’ll have more details in the spring issue of TSS prior to the meetings.

**Exhibit Coordinators:** Carol B. Wortham and Robert Wortham.

**Local Arrangements Committee:** Co-Chairs: Denise Bissler and Sarah Jane Brubaker; Members: Ghyasuddin Ahmed; Rachel Bobbitt; Joyce Edwards; Kelly Joyce; Leonda Keniston; Christine Mowery; Elizabeth Ransom; Carrie Sargeant.

Check out the interesting and colorful articles below provided by Local Arrangements Committee members and President-Elect, Kate Slevin. These pieces along with those contained in the fall TSS paint an exciting picture of the venues that await us in Richmond.

Larry Isaac  
Vanderbilt University

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**PREPARATION FOR THE 71<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL SSS MEETING IN RICHMOND**

## Special Student Rate for Annual Meeting

Our annual meetings are an excellent opportunity to socialize future graduate students.

Any SSS member who registers for the annual meetings is welcome to bring one or more undergraduate student(s) to these meetings. The cost for each student is \$20, and these students do not have to be SSS members to attend. The SSS member sponsor must submit a list of all attending students along with their pre-paid registration to the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the meetings. The discounted registration fee for undergraduates applies only to undergraduates who are observing the meetings; any undergraduate presenting a paper must pay the regular registration cost (\$25) and hold membership in SSS.

If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Bohon at [secretary@southernsociologicalsociety.org](mailto:secretary@southernsociologicalsociety.org).

## BOOK YOUR ROOMS NOW FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

You may make your reservation any time from now until March 10<sup>th</sup> at the conference rate (\$125 for single or double, \$135 for triple, and \$145 for quadruple rooms) by supplying the 7-digit code SSSSSSA when reserving your room at the Richmond Marriott. You can reserve rooms by calling 800-228-9290 or 804-643-3400. You can also reserve your room on-line at <http://www.marriott.com>.

## CALL FOR SSS AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Roll of Honor

Charles S. Johnson Award

Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award

Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award

Distinguished Lectureship Award

The Martin L. Levin Distinguished Service Award

Nominations for these Southern Sociological Society Awards are due no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008. All nominations and supporting materials should be sent electronically (if possible) to Jamie Price: [PRICEJL@appstate.edu](mailto:PRICEJL@appstate.edu); Department of Sociology & Social Work, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608-2115. Further information about all awards is available at the SSS web site: <http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/info.htm>. Scroll down the "SSS General Information" page and click on the "SSS Awards Page" button.

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# Around Richmond

This year's local arrangements committee of the SSS is excited to be organizing the conference in the unique venue of Richmond, Virginia. To share our excitement, we are spotlighting some of Richmond's more historic neighborhoods. Two neighborhoods were highlighted in the first newsletter along with some basic information about the meeting. Please refer back to that edition (<http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/assets/TSS.v39/fall07.final.1.pdf>)

for information about "Jackson Ward," "Shockoe Bottom" and ideas for "Family Fun." Thank you to Rachel Bobbitt (Virginia Commonwealth University), Carey Sargent (University of Virginia), Leonda Keniston (John Tyler Community College), Joyce Edwards (Virginia State University), Sarah Jane Brubaker (Virginia Commonwealth University), and Denise Bissler (Randolph-Macon College) for their contributions to the first newsletter.

In this newsletter, we are highlighting two other Richmond neighborhoods that may interest you during your visit "Carytown," "The Fan," as well as Williamsburg, which is about an hour away. In addition, we are providing information on a tour that you can register for online. In the next issue, we'll be focusing on specific events, races and festivals scheduled to take place in Richmond around the time of the conference. We will also include more specifics about transportation and other logistics.

Also, the December 2007 issue of *Southern Living* magazine might be of interest to you. The city of Richmond and its attractions were highlighted in this edition.

## Richmond Neighborhood Spotlights:

### Carytown

*Written by Kelly Joyce (College of William and Mary)*



Do you like to dine, shop, listen to acoustic music, and/or dance? Welcome to Carytown—an eclectic business district in Richmond.

Locally owned restaurants, shops and an old movie theater populate this thriving neighborhood located on Cary Street between Boulevard and Thompson Avenue. In Carytown, one can dine at high end posh restaurants or easily get an under \$10 meal.

Carytown at dusk

([www.pps.org/graphics/gpp/fan\\_district\\_richmond\\_va\\_ParkAvenueandCarwithLightsinSnow\\_large](http://www.pps.org/graphics/gpp/fan_district_richmond_va_ParkAvenueandCarwithLightsinSnow_large))

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## Around Richmond

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Carytown shops

([www.besthomesinrichmond.com/richmond-va/photos-of-richmond/carytown3.jpg](http://www.besthomesinrichmond.com/richmond-va/photos-of-richmond/carytown3.jpg))

Food options include French, Thai, Mexican, Japanese, Italian, barbecue, and the list goes on. You get the idea. There are lots of possibilities for culinary delights. Wandering through the neighborhood, people can also peruse stores that sell used cds, books, expensive handbags and shoes, boutique clothing, quirky toys and gifts, knitting supplies, and fair-trade items. Once again, variety is the key adjective for this section of town.



Vintage Clothing shop

([www.flickr.com/photos/puck90/449867284/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/puck90/449867284/))



The famous Byrd Theater

([wotbn.net/wp-content/themes/wotbn/images/features/theByrd.jpg](http://wotbn.net/wp-content/themes/wotbn/images/features/theByrd.jpg))

The Byrd Theater stands out as one of Carytown's treasures. Established in 1924, the Byrd Theater, or the Richmond Movie Palace as it is sometimes called, shows recent movies every night. Tickets are a mere \$1.99 per person. On Saturday nights, the house organist, Bob Gullede, plays the Byrd's Mighty Wurlitzer while white lights circle the theater stage. The organ concert alone is worth the \$1.99 admission fee.

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## Around Richmond

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For Love of Chocolate is another Carytown must see or rather must smell. The store carries chocolates from all over the world and wonderful aromas waft throughout the aisles. Even better, For Love of Chocolate often has free samples by the cash register.

For those who like to listen to acoustic music or dance until the wee hours, Babe's is the place to go. Babe's is a lesbian bar that hosts early acoustic shows at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. By 11 p.m., the dance floor rocks as a deejay spins hip hop and house music. All are welcome.



Chocolate shop in Carytown

(<http://www.flickr.com/photos/puck90/449881623/>)

Richmond is a green city with numerous parks and trails. Two of the city parks—Byrd Park and Maymont—are near Carytown. Byrd Park spans two hundred acres and has three small lakes: Boat, Shields, and Swan. Folks can rent paddle boats in Boat Lake and children and adults often feed the birds by Shields Lake. Turtles and a blue heron can frequently be seen at Shields and Swan Lakes. Maymont has extensive paved trails that meander through a Japanese garden, Italian garden, Butterfly garden, and more. Maymont also has animals, some of whom can be petted. Both parks are free and open to the public. See <http://www.maymont.org> for further information.



The Byrd Park Fountain

([www.byrdpark.org/files/page0\\_1.jpg](http://www.byrdpark.org/files/page0_1.jpg))

## Around Richmond

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### **The Fan:**

*Written by Elizabeth Ransom  
(University of Richmond)*

In the mood to learn a little about the history of Virginia, view period architecture, visit a few museums, or simply take a walking tour of the city and sample excellent food along the way? Then Richmond's Historic Fan District is your place.

Richmond's Fan District is known for its historic and diverse architecture, restaurants that cater to a wide range of budgets and palates, and several excellent museums.

The Historic Fan District is an 85-block mixed residential area immediately west Richmond's downtown commercial area. Named for its fan-shaped layout designed during Richmond's streetcar era, the Fan District features building styles ranging from Italianate, Richardson Romanesque, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival to Tudor, Second Empire, Beaux Arts, Art Deco, Spanish, Gothic, Bungalow, and the American Arts and Crafts Movement.

When walking through the Fan, make sure to check out any of the seven parks contained within the district, as well as the wide range of restaurants available. If you are looking for ethnic flavors try the Nile Ethiopian Restaurant, located next to Virginia Commonwealth University, or the slightly more upscale French and Mediterranean inspired Bacchus Restaurant located near the intersection of Main Street and N. Meadows Street or Kuba located in the heart of the fan at Park and Lombardy Street, specializing in Cuban cuisine. More traditional cuisine includes Joe's Inn and Strawberry Street Café, both local favorites, where one can get appetizing food at affordable prices. Bogart's is a place to grab a bite to eat and listen to live jazz and blue's music (tucked away in the back of the restaurant).



Arthur Ashe Monument  
([upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/0/01/Monument-AveAA.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/0/01/Monument-AveAA.jpg))

The Fan also contains many of Richmond's museums, including the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and for those with children, the very engaging Richmond Children's Museum. Just a few blocks from the museums, is a Richmond landmark, Monument Avenue. Monument Avenue, the only street in the United States that is a National Historic Landmark, runs through the heart of the Fan District. While Monument Avenue spans five miles of the city, a brief walk down Monument Avenue will reveal many of the statues that memorialize Virginian native Confederate participants of the Civil War, such as Robert E. Lee, and 20<sup>th</sup> century Richmond native, Arthur Ashe.



West Franklin Street in the Fan District  
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:FanDistrict-Richmond-VA.JPG>)

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## Around Richmond

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### **Williamsburg:**

*Written by Kathleen F. Slevin (College of William and Mary)*

#### VISITING WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA AND VICINITY

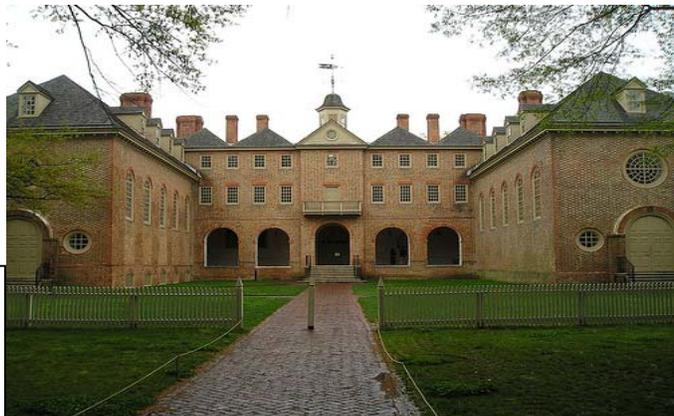
While you are in Richmond for the annual SSS meetings you might consider building in time to take a side-trip to visit Williamsburg—one of the most popular tourist venues in the U.S. Whether you are a history buff, a beer drinker, a roller coaster junkie, or someone who enjoys shopping at outlet and antique malls, Williamsburg has it all. Founded as the capital of the Virginia Colony in 1699, it is one of America's first planned cities and, between the colonial city itself and nearby Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center, you will find venues that bring American history alive. Both adults and children will find much to see and do in these locations and, as visitors confirm, this is relatively undiluted history taught in a way that keeps your attention and interest. Colonial Williamsburg and The Jamestown Settlement have won many national accolades in recent years for how effectively they incorporate the lives of slaves and Native Americans into their presentations and interpretations of early American life.



Williamsburg

([www.sar.org/vassar/militia-in-williamsburg.jpg](http://www.sar.org/vassar/militia-in-williamsburg.jpg))

In addition to these living museums, the area is also home to Anheuser Busch, Busch Gardens (with more than 50 rides, including several state-of-the-art roller coasters), Great Wolf Lodge (with an indoor water park) and more outlet malls (and a superb 45,000 sq. ft antique mall) than a passionate shopper can bear! Also adjacent to the Colonial area is the College of William and Mary which dates back to 1693. The College's "ancient" campus (there are also "old" and "new" parts of campus) is home to the Wren building which lays claim to being the oldest academic building in the U.S and is reputed to be designed by Sir Christopher Wren.



Christopher Wren Building  
College of William and Mary

(<http://www.flickr.com/photos/80823321@N00/466827649/>)

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## Around Richmond

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So how do you get to Williamsburg from Richmond? It is approximately a 60 minute car ride from downtown Richmond to Colonial Williamsburg. Because you will have to make choices about how to spend your time and money, I recommend that, in advance, you check out the various options by visiting these websites: [www.colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com); [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org) (for Jamestown and Yorktown information); [www.buschgardens.com/va](http://www.buschgardens.com/va); [www.primeoutlets.com](http://www.primeoutlets.com); [www.anheuser-busch.com](http://www.anheuser-busch.com); [www.williamsburgantiquemall.com](http://www.williamsburgantiquemall.com).



Merchant Square at Williamsburg  
(<http://timbonet.net/virginia/WBVA%20061.jpg>)

An insider's tip: if time and money are an issue, you do not have to buy tickets in order to enjoy strolling around the Colonial streets of Williamsburg. Ticket purchase allows you extensive access to various exhibits but you can still get a sense of the historical area by simply taking a walk down the main street, Duke of Gloucester Street (affectionately called DOG Street by William and Mary students). As well, Merchant Square is on DOG Street and it offers, along with surrounding streets, an eclectic array of boutiques and restaurants.

If you decide not to buy tickets, you might plan on spending 1-2 hours in the Colonial area, including a quick stroll on William and Mary's ancient campus. You can then move on to other attractions. The Jamestown Settlement is about a 20 minute drive from Colonial Williamsburg (downtown); Yorktown will take about a half hour drive along the spectacularly beautiful Colonial Parkway; the outlet and antique malls are a 10 minute drive from downtown; Busch Gardens and Anheuser Busch are 15 minute drives from downtown. Plan on a visit—you won't regret it!

## Richmond Area Tour

*Written by Kelly Joyce (College of William and Mary) and from the Richmond History Center*

The local arrangements committee has organized a tour of the city that we thought might interest our visiting sociologists. The tour is entitled: "African American Heritage Tour." It is a bus tour conducted by the Richmond History Center.

The tour will focus on the history of African-American's in the Richmond area and will encourage you to remember the era of Richmond's slave traders, revisit the role of free blacks and urban slaves, discuss the contributions of blacks during the Civil War, examine the African American experience during Reconstruction and the Jim Crow era, and honor the impact of the

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## Around Richmond

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lives of modern Richmonders Arthur Ashe and Douglas Wilder. The tour includes a trip through historic Jackson Ward, frequently referred to as "The Black Wall Street of America" and a visit to the Maggie Walker Historic Site.

To register for the tour, please send your name along with a check for \$15 payable to SSS to Stephanie A. Bohon, Secretary-Treasurer, Southern Sociological Society, PO Box 16239, Knoxville TN 37996. You can also register with your credit card by going to <http://cart.southernsociologicalsociety.org>. Click on "Meeting Registration" and then scroll to the bottom of the page. There is a \$1 processing fee for paying on-line.

Due to space considerations, we will only be able to take the first 44 people who register. You must register by February 1, 2008, to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. The tour information is below:

Date: Saturday, April 12, 2008

Time: 2-5 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 per person

### Other Richmond Tour Information:

*Written by Ghyasuddin Ahmed (Virginia State University) and collected from various web sites*

If the above tour is not your style, there are many other options.

#### **Daily Guided Riding Tours of Richmond**

Richmond Tours provides daily guided tours of historic Richmond. The guides will share with you the many beautiful, cultural, and historical aspects of "the best mid-sized city in the South." If you're looking for the perfect overview of Richmond, try the morning [Discover Richmond](#) tour. You will see the Capitol, Church Hill, St. John's Church, Monument Avenue and Jackson Ward.

[Reservations](#) are required and [pick-up locations](#) are conveniently located. For more information, call (877) 913-0151. Richmond Tours is operated by [James River Bus Lines](#)—a Richmond tradition since 1928.

#### **Miscellaneous Tours of Richmond**

- Historic Richmond Tours  
<http://www.richmondhistorycenter.com/>

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- Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond  
[http://www.richmondfed.org/about\\_us/our\\_tours/richmond/index.cfm](http://www.richmondfed.org/about_us/our_tours/richmond/index.cfm)
- Virginia Film Tours—Guided Bus Tours Where Hollywood Meets History  
<http://www.virginiafilmtours.com>
- Haunts of Richmond Haunted House, Ghost Tours, Scary true ghost stories—Haunted house based on Richmond ghost stories, legends, and Edgar Allan Poe tales. Also offers walking ghost tours of downtown Richmond. <http://www.hauntsorichmond.com>
- Welcome Visitor and Newcomer—Slave Trail Tours. Valentine Richmond History Center Tour. <http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/visitor/tours.aspx>
- Richmond International Raceway—Official site of the Richmond International Raceway. Includes schedule, seating charts, and current news. <http://www.rir.com>

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### Information on Chesterfield County:

*Written by Ghyasuddin Ahmed (Virginia State University) and collected from various web sites*

Chesterfield County is the perfect place to live and work, as evidenced by American City Business Journals' ranking in May 2004 as the "17th Best Place to Live in America." But, did you know it's also a great place to play? There are more than 30 public parks here featuring nearly 3,000 acres of green space, an abundance of historical landmarks and several sports complexes that include playing fields. Pocahontas State Park also is located in the county.



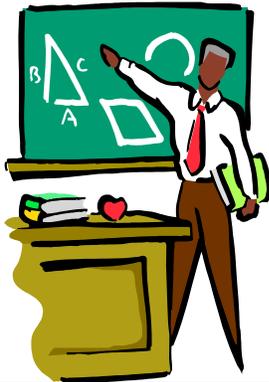
Pocahontas State Park  
([www.virginia.org/fall/images/parks/PSPalbum11](http://www.virginia.org/fall/images/parks/PSPalbum11))

### **General Information:**

The meeting is April 9-12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and will be held at the Richmond Marriott Hotel. Please check out the new website at: <http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org>. If you have questions, you can submit them to our blog <http://sss2008meeting.blogspot.com/> -- to make a comment, click on "# comments" - sign in to Google. Otherwise, if you have any questions concerning local arrangements, please contact one of the co-chairs: Denise Bissler ([dbissler@rmc.edu](mailto:dbissler@rmc.edu)) and Sarah Jane Brubaker ([sbrubaker@vcu.edu](mailto:sbrubaker@vcu.edu)).

We hope to see you in April.

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# The Teaching Corner



Carrie L. Cokely  
Meredith College

Chair, Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges

The Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges is busy planning and organizing sessions related to teaching institutions for the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Richmond. More details on these sessions will appear in the Teaching Corner in the coming months.

This month's Teaching Corner contains two pieces related to different aspects of teaching. Dan Harrison reflects upon the meaning of education and Brian Ward offers an exercise that he uses in his own courses to help students understand welfare reform. Thanks to both for their submissions, and I encourage other readers also to send along their own thoughts, assignments and activities for inclusion in future editions of The Teaching Corner. All submissions can be sent to [cokelyc@meredith.edu](mailto:cokelyc@meredith.edu).

## Reflection on Education

Daniel M. Harrison  
Lander University

In doing some research on the sociology adventure a few months ago, I stumbled across a great quote about what education can or ought to be. My discovery was somewhat serendipitous as the new fall term was approaching and I was experiencing my usual pre-first day of class flutters. The book I was reading at the time was called *Mountains of the Great Blue Dream* (1991. North Point Press), by mountaineer and wilderness writer Robert Leonard Reid. I was more interested in reading the book for what I could mine for my research agenda and was not really expecting anything relevant to what I do in the classroom. The essays are much more about mountain climbing than education, but then suddenly a wonderful paragraph appeared that summed up, better than anything else I have read, my motivations for becoming an educator. This quote attracted my attention:

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## The Teaching Corner

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“Education is *precisely* a conversation between two people, teacher and student, who have agreed to embark on an adventure together. It is a joining of two minds, not twenty or thirty, not one mind and a computer, in a quest for truth, an endeavor as necessary to life as laughter as love. A teacher is what Socrates was, an ardent, caring, learned, occasionally floundering guide led by his inner light.”

I like this quote because of the truth wrapped up in it. If you think back on any truly educational experience you have had, a conversation was at the heart of it—you worked through and learned something with the help of another. I also like the quote because Reid speaks of education as adventure—of entering new and uncharted lands—of taking risks. He suggests that we treat our students as fellow travelers, as equals, as humans—not as warm bodies, not as receptacles of information, not as faceless User-ids on a computer screen, and certainly not as sources of revenue. Reid’s quote reminds us that we need to care about our students, our discipline, our courses, our institutions, and implies that we should always be learning more about what we teach (in our case, the human condition). Like the mountaineer or rock climber, Reid tells us it is okay to stumble occasionally in the classroom, or in your research, to lose your footing, only to regain your balance and set forth on the path again.

I keep this quote handy and whenever I am feeling a little uncertain about an upcoming lecture or class discussion, or if I am in the academic doldrums for whatever reason, Reid’s quote reminds me why I got into education in the first place and gives me the energy I need to share what I know about the social world.

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### Using “Mini-Debates” to Encourage Student Understanding of the Welfare Reform

Brian W. Ward

University of Maryland, College Park

Encouraging participation in my *Social Problems* class of 60 undergraduates can sometimes be difficult, especially when discussing topics new to students. The welfare reform (PRWORA) is one of these topics that often present this problem—most students have little to no knowledge of this policy, and shy away from engaging in class discussion on the policy. Therefore, in an effort to increase student participation, I use a simple debate format to talk about the different aspects of the welfare reform.

*Background:* Prior to the debate, students have heard a brief lecture on the welfare reform, read “Issue 13: Has Welfare Reform Benefited the Poor?” in Finsterbusch’s *Taking Sides*, and completed a brief homework assignment to find additional information on PRWORA.

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# The Teaching Corner

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**Materials/Preparation:** No materials are needed besides the handout itself. Prior to class that day, I circle a statement number and group letter on each handout (see below). These handouts are given to students as they enter the classroom without allowing them to select their own groups. This encourages students to interact with others with whom they do not regularly interact, and thus creates a different

dynamic in their group discussions. Students are

only given a short amount of time to prepare for the debate during class since they have spent time discussing and reading PRWORA prior to this assignment. Finally, I also tell the class that the student groups who have the most convincing debate will receive double credit for this assignment (a rather small portion of their overall final grade).

**Outcome:** I have used this assignment several times since teaching this course, and have had quite good results. Much more meaningful discussion takes place than had previously occurred when I was not using this assignment. In addition, students have been very receptive to the debate format. On end-of-semester course evaluations, I have been repeatedly asked to use this assignment again in the future, or to use the format on additional topics. Finally, I have noticed from essays on my final exam that students appear to have better understood the welfare reform during the semesters I have used this particular class assignment.

The “mini-debate” is a simple assignment that can be applied to a variety of topics we discuss in our sociology courses. I have found them to be quite effective in increasing students’ understanding of difficult topics, encouraging more meaningful discussions, and making the learning of these topics a more enjoyable experience for students.

## **Handout for Students**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement Number: 1 2 3 4

Group Letter: A B

**Objective:** In an effort to better understand The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), commonly known as the “welfare reform,” students will be holding short debates in regards to certain statements made about the reform. Each debate will have the following format:

	<b>Segment</b>	<b>Group Time Limit (min.)</b>	<b>Total Elapsed Time (min.)</b>
I.	Opening Statements	2 (each group 1 min.)	2
II.	Group “A” Argument	3	5
III.	Group “B” Argument	3	8
IV.	Closing Statement	2 (each group 1 min.)	10

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# The Teaching Corner

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*Directions:*

1. Get into groups with the other students holding the same statement number/group letter combinations corresponding to yours.
2. Each group must select 3 individuals to speak: 1 for the opening statement, 1 for the argument, and 1 for the closing statement.
3. Speakers will be cut off at the specified time limit.
4. Each student must individually turn in this sheet of paper

at the end of class containing notes on your group discussion to receive credit for an In-class Assignment.

The class will vote on the group they felt made a stronger debate. The most convincing group on each statement will receive double credit.

**Statement #1**

One of the main reasons that Congress ended AFDC was the widespread backlash against welfare recipients, which often rested on the assumption that welfare is rather generous and that most of the individuals receiving benefits get comfortable being lazy.

In support of this argument: Group #1-A

In opposition to this argument: Group #1-B

**Statement #2**

Obtaining a job and working is truly the only way to earn an income and assist individuals and families in getting out of poverty. The welfare reform encourages individuals using its services to obtain and maintain a job allowing them to earn a steady income.

In support of this argument: Group #2-A

In opposition to this argument: Group #2-B

**Statement #3**

Since the welfare reform has been initiated, we have seen that female-headed households with children were less likely to receive welfare benefits than at any point in the past 40 years, and the official poverty rate for female-headed families with children has decreased to reach some of the lowest levels since the 1950s. Welfare reform is now widely viewed as one of the greatest successes of contemporary social policy.

In support of this argument: Group #3-A

In opposition to this argument: Group #3-B

**Statement #4**

Since the welfare reform was established in 1996, it is too soon to obtain an accurate assessment of the long-term impacts of PRWORA.

In support of this argument: Group #4-A

In opposition to this argument: Group #4-B

## Reference

Finsterbusch, Kurt. (ed). 2007. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Social Issues*. 14<sup>th</sup> ed. Dubuque: McGraw Hill.

# The Teaching Corner

## 2008 Carolina Undergraduate Social Sciences Symposium April 17-18, 2008



### The College of Charleston Sponsored by the South Carolina Sociological Association

Undergraduate students in all disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences are invited to participate. Reports of social science research and investigation regardless of methodology, including qualitative and quantitative works, works of theory, visual sociology, analyses of secondary data, essays on social science topics, and posters are all appropriate for presentation at the symposium.

Students wishing to participate should submit a proposal (preferably electronically) that includes the author's name, institutional affiliation, paper/poster title (specifying the format), and a brief abstract. Abstracts should be approximately 100 words and reflect the general theoretical orientation of the proposed presentation and suggest specific questions and concerns that the presentation will address. Please also indicate any equipment needed for the presentation. The deadline for proposal submissions is March 31, 2008.

A cash award will be given to students with the papers judged to be best. To be included in the student paper competition, a completed paper must be submitted by April 10, 2008. Additionally, an award will be given for the best poster. Papers and posters included in the competition must be single authored.

Proposals and papers should be sent to Tracy Burkett, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, College of Charleston, 66 George St., Charleston, SC 29464. [mailto: burketti@cofc.edu](mailto:burketti@cofc.edu).

# The Teaching Corner

## 26<sup>th</sup> SEUSS: Southeastern Under- graduate Sociology Symposium

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### Theme:

***Health: Global, social, interpersonal, and individual***

Co-Sponsored by Emory University and Morehouse College  
Departments of Sociology

The 26<sup>th</sup> SEUSS will be held on February 24-25, 2008 (Sunday and Monday) at Emory University. The Symposium provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to participate in a professional meeting. Papers in any area of sociology are welcome. Students whose papers are accepted will give a 12-15 minute presentation of their research. The three best papers will receive an Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research (1<sup>st</sup> place \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$75, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$50). All presenters will receive Certificates of Professional Participation. Abstracts of all presented papers are published in the Symposium Proceedings.

A banquet will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> for all student participants and faculty. The keynote speaker at this year's banquet is Professor Ellen Idler from the Department of Sociology at Rutgers University.

*Application Procedure.* Interested students should submit a one-page paper abstract and a faculty letter of support by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (please send by email to Dr. Corey Keyes at [corey.keyes@emory.edu](mailto:corey.keyes@emory.edu)). The faculty letter should indicate that the paper is, or will be, completed and ready for presentation on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Students will be notified promptly of their acceptance. A nominal registration fee of \$25 is charged to help defray the costs of the banquet and proceedings.

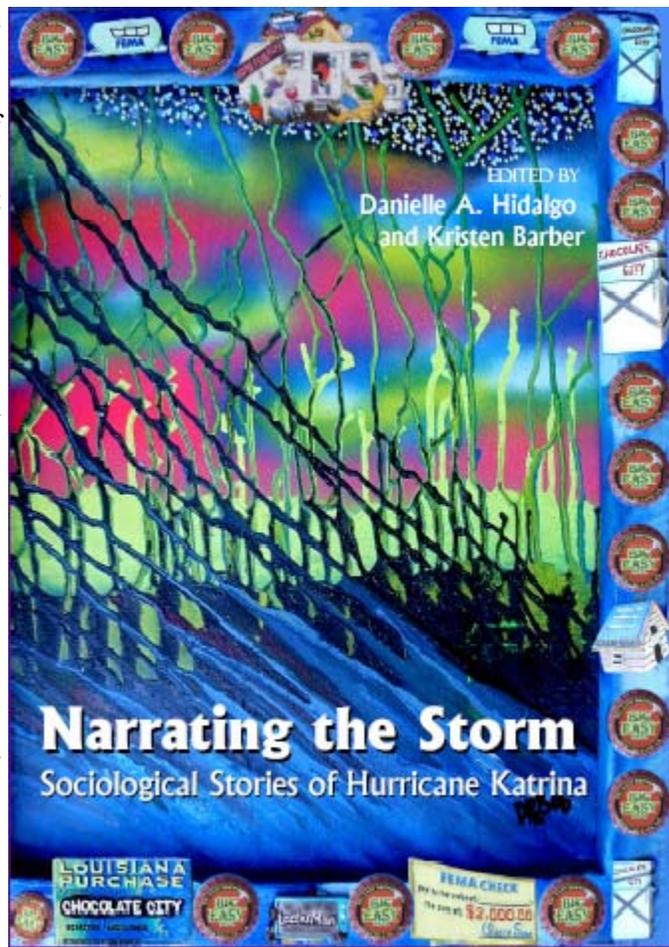
*Note:* Information about paper winners from the last SEUSS, registration and accommodation information, and updates are available at the website <http://www.sociology.emory.edu/SEUSS/>

# Member News

**Alexander Lu** (Louisiana State University) was awarded the Everett Lee Graduate Student paper award at the Southern Demographic Association Meetings in Birmingham, Alabama, in October.

**Stephanie Bohon** received the Chancellor's Award for Research at the University of Tennessee.

**Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo** (University of California, Santa Barbara) and **Kristen Barber** (University of Southern California) have edited *Narrating the Storm: Sociological Stories of Hurricane Katrina*, which has recently been published by Cambridge Scholars Press (2007). For those interested in learning more about the personal impact of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, *Narrating the Storm* serves as an essential read. This important and timeless volume is a compilation of sixteen narratives that address the experiences of Gulf Coast residents, faculty, and graduate students who were caught up in the largest (not so) natural disaster in United States history. Each contributor deploys storytelling sociology as a methodological approach in order to illustrate how "personal" experiences with disaster are not so personal, but rather reflect and are informed by larger social phenomena related to issues including race, class, gender, age, bureaucracy, risk, collective memory, the blasé, and more. The narratives in this volume exemplify how inequality and injustice are unveiled, exacerbated, and created by the occurrence of disaster and reveal the sociological in everyday and not-so-everyday experiences. This volume is a critical read for anyone interested in Hurricane Katrina, the sociological implications of Hurricane Katrina, storytelling as a method, and the application of theory to real lived experiences.



# Demographic Transitions

Chester Wendell "Chet" Hartwig died March 8, 2007, in Auburn, Alabama. An Emeritus Professor at the University of Auburn, he was 91 at the time of his death. In 1951, Chet was appointed to the faculty of sociology at Auburn Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University), and he received his PhD in 1995 from the University of Wisconsin. He had a busy teaching career and also served as President of the Faculty Association. In order to keep abreast of his field, Chet was a prodigious reader and occasional contributor to academic journals. As the central figure in the Sociology Department at Auburn, Chet became head of the Sociology Department and led it for many years. He was a "gold mine of information" for other faculty, and he was credited largely for building the department from his single position to ten professors, a graduate program, and a sociology journal (initiated and edited by Raj P. Mohan) by the time he retired in 1977.

# Job Opportunities

University of Pennsylvania. The Department of Medical Ethics at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine seeks candidates for an Assistant Professor position in the tenure track. The successful applicant will have experience in the field of Medical Ethics / Bioethics with a focus on one or more of the following areas: reproductive ethics, neuroethics, mental health ethics, genetics, human experimentation and transplant ethics. Responsibilities include research and development of journal articles, book chapters, and other publications; mentoring; and administrative responsibilities. Responsibilities also include teaching at undergraduate, graduate and/or medical school level. Applicants must have a Ph.D. degree and have demonstrated excellent qualifications in education and research. Other terminal degree such as M.D. or J.D. will be considered.

Applicants with research expertise in applied ethics and bioethics as well as demonstrated interest in at least two of the areas mentioned above are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted for review through January 31, 2008. The effective date of appointment will be 05/01/2008. The University of Pennsylvania is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Women and minority candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please submit curriculum vitae, a cover letter, and 3 reference letters to: **Chair, Search Committee**, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Department of Medical Ethics, 3401 Market Street, Suite 320, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3319. Email: [bio-esrch@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:bio-esrch@mail.med.upenn.edu).

# Opportunities

## Southeastern Women's Studies Association Meeting

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Southeastern Women's Studies Association Meeting will be held at UNC Charlotte on April 3-5, 2008. The theme of this year's conference is Frontiers of Feminism at Home and Abroad. Keynote speakers are: bell hooks, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Cynthia Enloe, and Rosemarie Tong. Abstract and session proposals were due November 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information go to <http://womensstudies.uncc.edu/sewsa/>.

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## The Society for the Study of Social Problems

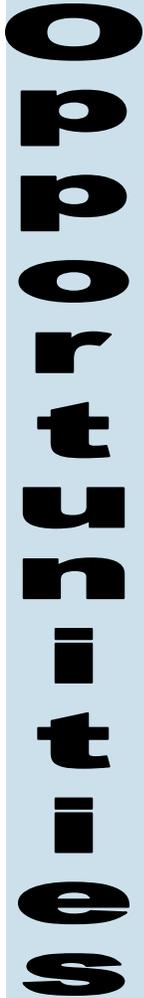
### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) invites proposals for its 58th Annual Meeting, to be held July 31-August 2, 2008, at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers, Boston, MA. Theme: **CROSSING BORDERS: ACTIVIST SCHOLARSHIP, GLOBALIZATION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**. Papers or extended abstracts (2-3 page summary of your intended presentation) for presentations at division sponsored sessions must be sent electronically to session organizers no later than January 31, 2008. If your paper does not fit into one of the sessions listed in the Call for Papers, send your submission electronically no later than January 31 to Program Committee Co-Chairs: Hector Delgado, [delgadoh@ulv.edu](mailto:delgadoh@ulv.edu) and Wendy Simonds, [wsimonds@gsu.edu](mailto:wsimonds@gsu.edu). Questions relating to the program should be directed to them as well. When sending an e-mail, please place SSSP in the subject line. For further information, visit <http://www.sssp1.org>.

### RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is recruiting applications for the 2008 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship. Persons accepted into an accredited doctoral program in any one of the social and/or behavioral sciences who will have attained ABD status by September 1, 2008, are invited to apply for the \$12,000 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship. Applications are due by and must be received no later than February 1, 2008. Applicants will be notified of the results by July 15, 2008. All applicants must be a current member and a citizen of the United States or permanent resident when applying. For further information and an application, visit <http://www.sssp1.org>. /Contact Joya Misra, Chair with all questions (W: 413-545-5969; F: 413-545-0746; [misra@soc.umass.edu](mailto:misra@soc.umass.edu)).

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## *Social Forces*

### Disaster as a Sociological Event: Modern Destruction and Future Instruction

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Social Forces seeks papers for a special section on the sociology of natural disasters. Original papers are invited for consideration that address the way in which disasters disturb not only the natural environment but also tear at the social fabric. Papers might focus on how communities recover based on the composition of their social structures, the conditions in which social groups best deal with disasters and what sociology tells us about past behavior and its predictions for the future. In recent memory we have Katrina and the 2004 Tsunami; in longer term memory we have the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, 1900 Galveston Hurricane, the eruption of Vesuvius and destruction of Pompeii. Sociology and sociological inquiry have been at the center of disaster research for years. However, contemporary disasters have taken on significantly different forms and future catastrophes may have predictable, yet different contours. Can sociology help provide an understanding of society's reactions to these catastrophes? Can sociology help discern common processes in these episodes or understand unique features of any specific episode? Papers that make a theoretical contribution in this area will be particularly welcomed, as will empirical papers based on any sound methodological approach.

The special section will be edited by David L. Brunnsma, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri. He is race and ethnicity section editor of *Sociology Compass*, an executive committee member of the Southern Sociological Society, recent co-editor of *The Sociology of Katrina: Perspectives on a Modern Catastrophe*, and a member of *Sociologists Without Borders*. Papers will be peer reviewed.

The deadline for submissions is June 13, 2008. Manuscripts should be limited to 5,000-9,000 words including references and endnotes and should be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment to [Social\\_Forces@unc.edu](mailto:Social_Forces@unc.edu). Tables and figures must be editable in Microsoft Word or Excel. Please do not use any automatic formatting feature. Submission fees for this section are waived, so please note that the submission is for this section.

Inquiries about the review process or about a particular manuscript should be directed to David L. Brunnsma at [brunsmad@missouri.edu](mailto:brunsmad@missouri.edu).

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**Members of the Southern Sociological Society can now receive a \$10 discount off membership in the American Sociological Association.**

Many SSS members are active leaders in the ASA, serving on Council, editorial boards, and in sections. We invite you to join the community of scholars active in both SSS and ASA.

ASA members receive access to the **member-only section** of the ASA website 20-60% discounts on publications and merchandise in the **online bookstore**; discounts on **Annual Meeting** registration and services; **online journal access** through Ingenta; the monthly members-only e-newsletter, *ASA Member News & Notes*; and a broad array of **affinity benefits** with member discounts on insurance, lodging, rental cars, travel, wireless service, and much, much more.

We invite you to join ASA today and take advantage of the \$10 discount. Visit the ASA website at [www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org), click on "Join or Renew" and use the discount code **PROSSS** on the final payment page. (Offer good only to new non-student members.) For additional information, e-mail [membership@asanet.org](mailto:membership@asanet.org) or call (202) 383-9005 x389.

Send your comments, suggestions, or materials for *The Southern Sociologist* to the editor Bob Freymeyer  
mailto: [rhfreym@presby.edu](mailto:rhfreym@presby.edu)

**TSS**

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## Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funds highly qualified individuals to undertake broad studies of the most challenging policy issues in health and health care facing America. Grants of up to \$335,000 are awarded to investigators from a variety of disciplines. Successful proposals combine creative and conceptual thinking with innovative approaches to critical health problems and policy issues.

Applications are welcomed from investigators in fields such as anthropology, business, demography, economics, engineering, ethics, genetics, health and social policy, history, journalism, law, medicine, nursing, political science, public health, psychology, science policy, social work, and sociology. We seek a diverse group of applicants including minorities and individuals in non-academic settings.

If you have a project idea that holds promise for enhancing our understanding of significant health-related problems and informing the development of sound health policies, we encourage you to consider applying.

**Deadline for 4-page Letter of Intent Applications: March 26, 2008**

The complete Call for Applications is available at <http://www.investigatorawards.org> or by calling (732) 932-3817. Please visit our website for more information about the program and its awardees.

2008 SSS Annual Meeting  
April 9-12, 2008  
Richmond Marriott  
Richmond, Virginia



# THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/>

The Southern Sociological Society (SSS) is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote the development of sociology as a profession and scientific discipline by the maintenance of high academic professional and ethical standards and by encouraging:

- (a) effective teaching of sociology;
- (b) valid and reliable methods of research in the study of human society;
- (c) diffusion of sociological knowledge and its application to societal problems;
- (d) cooperation with related disciplines and groups;
- (e) recruitment and training of sociologists; and
- (f) development of sociology programs in educational and other agencies.

Members receive *Social Forces* and online access to *The Southern Sociologist* and to a membership directory. An annual meeting is held in the spring, usually mid-April. Membership is open to any person who can assist in promoting the objectives of the society. Persons wishing to join SSS may send dues directly

to the Secretary-Treasurer. Please include your first middle and last name, address, phone number, where employed, and gender. For statistical purposes, we also ask you to include your race and/or ethnic group and three areas of specialty.

The membership year is July 1 through June 30. Membership classes, annual charges and dues are:

Regular .....	50.00
Emeritus	
with <i>Social Forces</i> .....	23.00
without <i>Social Forces</i> .....	no cost
Associate (non-voting) .....	48.00
Student .....	25.00

Dues, subscriptions, membership inquiries and address changes should be addressed to:

Dr. Stephanie Bohon  
Secretary-Treasurer  
PO Box 16239  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville TN 37996  
To pay online go to

<https://www.cart.southernsociologicalsociety.org/>

## THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGIST

Editor  
**Robert H. Freymeyer**  
Department of Sociology  
Presbyterian College  
Clinton, SC 29325  
864-833-8359  
fax 864-938-3769  
[mailto: rhfreym@presby.edu](mailto:rhfreym@presby.edu)

*The Southern Sociologist* (TSS) is the official publication of the Southern Sociological Society. It is typically published electronically three times a year in the months of May, September, and January. The purpose of TSS is to report the news, announcements, and information of interest to the profession and to serve as a medium of communication for the SSS membership on issues affecting the profession.

## INFORMATION WANTED. . .CONTRIBUTE TO TSS

To bring you the news, I need your news! Please send any news of your department and/or colleagues for possible publication in TSS. Articles pertaining to the state of the profession or the discipline are also welcome. To appear in the next issue, submissions must be received by the deadline below.

In addition to news and other information, I am also interested in any thoughts you may wish to suggest regarding the format and/or content of TSS.

## TSS

The editor reserves the right to publish or not to publish any submission. Also, there may be times when submissions need to be edited. This will be done where appropriate, but in no case will the substance of any submission be changed without the prior consent of the author.

**Next Issue Deadline: March 1, 2008**